

positive statements in the word of God. "If any man hath not the spirit of Christ he is none of his." Rom. 8:9.

The promised spirit is the reconciling power by which the Christian is "Made partaker of his divine nature."

This is a wonderful statement, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

Finally let me say, if any one should be dissatisfied with his experience, it is not a sin, as some suppose, for him to doubt his acceptance with God. But he should examine himself, whether he be in the faith.

No man by a simple effort can expel a single doubt from his mind, but he has a right to *know* these things and must know them.

"Do his will," and God will make his promises good, which will expel doubt as naturally as light expels darkness.

Let us endeavor to keep the "Unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, knowing that, He who keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we *know* that he abideth in us, by the spirit which he hath given us." I John 3:24.

May God hasten the day when, all will be able to realize, "That the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding."

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#### CHRIST, THE PERFECT MODEL.

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There have many great men lived upon the earth, but not one has been able to say, come follow me. In Jesus Christ we have a perfect model. The crude block of human nature sits before the master, and with the chisel of divine truth and the mallet of his power, the Holy Spirit shapes him into the image of the divine pattern. This is the portrait of every Christian as he develops to the stature of the fullness of Christ, by growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Whether the perfection is attained here below or not, such will be the likeness and glory of God's child when he awakes on the banks of the crystal sea.

All glory and honor be given to Him who is a perfect model, one after whom we need not fear to build our character, one who lived a life spotless in all its phases. Amid adversities he showed his power of endurance, amid persecutions he returned good for evil, by kind words and deeds of goodness, and with a loving spirit interceded in behalf of sinful men. How beautiful and glorious this model! Eye

hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart conceived the exalted position of this perfect model. Have we ever thought of the perfectness and glory that attend the destiny of those who have patterned their lives after this model. The beautiful symbolism of the "bride adorned for her husband," and "the new Jerusalem," "the glorified church," "coming down from God out of heaven," seen by John the Revelator, gives us some conception of the grandeur of our perfection in Christ in the heavenly state.

"We are complete in him." We shall be perfect as he is perfect, perfect in divine and eternal life. If we pattern our life after Jesus, we shall fill out our moral and spiritual stature in the likeness of the blessed Christ. O glorious model! How we should sit before it, or hold it in front of us every day, that we may be conformed to his will and transformed more and more unto the perfect day after his likeness and image by a living sacrifice unto him of body, mind, and soul! Jesus Christ said to the world, "Follow me." He spake as man never spake. He made no mistakes in judgment, committed no fault in morals. His example of divine life in toil and teaching, in trial and suffering, in self-denial and sacrifice, find no parallel in the history of the world's great men. He uttered a doctrine and established a system of religion which are absolutely faultless. He was the perfect God and at the same time a perfect man; and he became united with human nature, and felt all its wants and infirmities, and died with a perfect human experience and a perfect human character. Being then not only perfect in human nature, but also divine, He became the divine magnet which drew the world to his feet, and he said, "If I go to the Father, I will draw all men to me."

Are we thankful that we can sit before so loving a friend, so perfect a model, who knows all our wants and gives our hungering hearts every needed grace.

In Christ we have a living, loving model which helps us to study himself, with such advantage of discipleship, how rapidly we may develop into his likeness. The Holy Spirit is ever over us helping us to select our footsteps in the divine life. There has never been one single human model to imitate, not one, however perfect could have transformed us into a character fit for the kingdom of God. Christ could say, "Come unto me and learn," for in the school of Christ the soul can find food and refreshment from God, wisdom and peace from above. The schools of Socrates and Plato, the academies of the Greeks were grand molders of human thought, but none ever

could say, "come" or "go" as Jesus Christ said it. As a teacher Christ eclipses with transcendent glory all the school-masters of time.

He taught us how to live as well as how to die. He brings with accuracy the panorama of eternity before our eyes. In him is the impersonation of meekness and humility, greatness and goodness. In him also is the impersonation of God, his child-like innocence and simplicity, coupled with his strong-hearted courage and majesty of manhood, brought together two extremes of human nature that was never marred, and thro Christ's teachings to-day do we behold illustrations of manhood on earth in imitation of our great and only model. All truly great men and women are those who thro his teaching imitate him. We need to use Christ as our model in our character, life, example and death. His character is found faultless by all men. In life we find him toiling, going about doing good.

Christ is the living statue of perfection before the eyes of all men. Are you sorrowful? Behold the man of sorrows, who bore all your sorrows and takes them away. Are you sinful? Look upon him by whose stripes you are healed. Are you weary and heavy laden? There he stands who said, "Come unto me, and . . . ye shall find rest." Are you fettered and hampered? "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Are you proud? "I am meek and lowly of heart." Are you full of hate and malice? "Return good for evil, love your enemies." Are you weary and overcome by the storms of this life? "Be not afraid; it is I." Are you lonely and forsaken? "I will not leave you comfortless." Are you poor? "All things are yours." Are you guilty, ruined, lost in despair? Behold your Redeemer and Savior, and think of Mary Magdalene and the thief on the cross and the woman taken in adultery. Are you hungry and thirsty? Jesus is the Bread, and Water of Life. Are you old? "I will never forsake you and leave you." Brother what is it, that He cannot do for a saint or sinner? He is "all in all," "Alpha and Omega," the "Author and Finisher of our faith." He is the exhaustion of all goodness and greatness, "our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption."

Let us sit before Him every day, and finally we shall sit together in heavenly places complete in Jesus Christ.

I have had many things in my hands and I have lost them all; but whatever I have been able to place in God's I still possess. —Martin Luther.